

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-28.

29. (New) A method of shredding a block of material, the method comprising:

rotating a drum about an axis, the drum having a plurality of blades thereon; and

feeding the block of material in a feed plane toward the drum in a feeding direction, the feeding direction being substantially perpendicular to the axis about which the drum rotates, and

cutting shreds of the material from a front face of the block with the plurality of blades.

30. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein feeding the block of material comprises moving the material with an arm that forces the block of material in the feed direction.

31. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein feeding the block of material comprises moving the material with a mechanical arm.

32. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein feeding the block of material comprises moving the material with a hydraulic arm.

33. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein feeding the block of material comprises placing the block of material on rollers that move the block of material in the feed direction.

34. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein feeding the block of material comprises feeding a block of cheese, wherein the plurality of blades are configured to cut cheese.

35. (New) The method of claim 34 further comprising forming the block of cheese by stacking a plurality of ribbons of cheese atop each other.

36. (New) A method of shredding a block of material, the method comprising:

providing a shredding unit having blades revolving about an axis;

rotating the blades about the axis, wherein the blades define a cutting perimeter;

moving the block of material toward the cutting perimeter on a feed plane and in a feeding direction, the feeding direction being generally perpendicular to and rotated about 90° from the axis about which the blades move; and

cutting shreds of the material from a front face of the block with the blades.

37. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein placing the block of material on a feed unit that moves the block of material comprises moving the material with an arm that forces the block of material in the feed direction.

38. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein placing the block of material on a feed unit that moves the block of material comprises moving the material with a mechanical arm.

39. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein placing the block of material on a feed unit that moves the block of material comprises moving the material with a hydraulic arm.

40. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein placing the block of material on a feed unit that moves the block of material comprises placing the block of material on rollers that move the block of material in the feed direction.

41. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein placing the block of material on a feed unit that moves the block of material comprises placing the block of material on a bottom belt to support the bottom surface of the block of material, the bottom belt conveying the block of material in the feed direction.

42. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein placing the block of material on a feed unit comprises placing a block of cheese on the feed unit, and wherein the plurality of blades are configured to cut cheese.

43. (New) The method according to claim 42 further comprising forming the block of cheese by stacking a plurality of ribbons of cheese atop each other.

44. (New) A method of forming shreds of cheese, the method comprising:

moving at least one cutting blade about an axis; and

moving a block of cheese in a feed direction toward the at least one cutting blade, the feed direction being generally perpendicular to and rotated about 90° from the axis about which the at least one cutting blade moves.

45. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein moving at least one cutting blade about an axis comprises rotating a drum having a plurality of cutting blades on the drum.

46. (New) The method according to claim 44 further comprising forming the block of cheese by stacking a plurality of ribbons of cheese atop each other.

47. (New) The method according to claim 46 further comprising:

forming a continuous sheet of cheese on a belt; and

cutting the sheet along its width to form the plurality of ribbons of cheese.

48. (New) The method according to claim 44 further comprising forming the block of cheese extruding the cheese into a solid block.